



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

Ph.D. in Old Testament Entrance Exam Study Guide

The Ph.D. Entrance Exam in Old Testament will consist of essay questions in two parts, each part approximately 3 hours in length.

Part 1 (the morning session) You may have some choice concerning which questions to answer. More specific instructions will be given the day of the exam.

Part 2 (the afternoon session) You may have some choice concerning which questions to answer.

Part 3 (the second day) will assess readiness for advanced work in Hebrew.

The exam will be closed book, so you will not be allowed to use any resources other than the writing instruments you bring with you and the writing paper and instructional materials that will be provided in your exam folder.

Applicants are expected to be prepared to write for 90 minutes on any of the following questions. Essays will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Relevance and Argumentation

- Students should give careful attention to the question and outline refined arguments. Student should incorporate & critically interact with relevant resources related to the field.

Writing Mechanics

- Students' responses should be intelligent, and precise. Reasonable arrangement of paragraphs and ideas should enhance a reader's understanding. Responses should be focused, and vocabulary varied. Responses should contain very few grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

Awareness of Relevant Scholarship

- Students should show awareness of seminal sources, major figures and pivotal events related to the field and incorporate and properly interact with resources related to the question.

Part 1: Old Testament introductory issues and theology

Archer, Gleason L. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Revised, updated ed. Chicago: Moody, 2007.

Harrison, R.K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969. (OP)

Hasel, Gerhard. F. *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*, 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

Hayes, John H. and Frederick Prussner. *Old Testament Theology: Its History & Development*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985.

Part 2: Old Testament history, archaeology, textual criticism, grammar, syntax and the history of the Hebrew Bible

Arnold, Bill T. and Richard S. Hess. *Ancient Israel's History: An Introduction to Issues and Sources*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

Kitchen, K.A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Tov, Emanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. 3rd ed. revised and expanded. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011.

Waltke, Bruce K., and Michael Patrick O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

Würthwein, E. *The Text of the Old Testament*. E.F. Rhodes, trans. 2nd revised and enlarged ed., paper. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Part 3: Translation, parsing and discussion of textual issues related to a specific Old Testament passage.

Particular Issues of Concern

- Be able to discuss the major issues in the area of OT criticism.
- Be able to discuss matters of introduction to the books of the OT, especially the books of Genesis, Isaiah and Daniel.
- Be able to discuss issues related to the history and archaeology of the Old Testament period, especially related to the time of the Exodus out of Egypt, the Assyrian, and the Babylonian period.
- Have knowledge of a historical time line for the OT and be able to identify and discuss key books, events, and people on any part of that time line.
- Explain foundational grammatical constructions, especially the use of the verbal “tenses” (perfect/imperfect/preterite [qatal/yiqtol/weyiqtol or suffixed/prefixed conjugations]) in past tense narrative, and the construct-genitive chain.
- Be able to perform Hebrew translation, parsing and discussion of textual issues of a specific Hebrew passage.

Questions:

1. Describe the history of the discipline of biblical theology, particularly Old Testament biblical theology, from the 17th - 19th centuries. Include major personages, philosophical underpinnings, and major trends.
2. List and evaluate the major tenets of the Documentary Hypothesis for the origin of the Old Testament. Use specific literary and ancient Near Eastern artifactual evidence in your critique.
3. Discuss the major Old Testament theological methods used to organize the content of the Old Testament into a biblical theology. Include major personages along with a brief evaluation of each method.
4. Does the Old Testament have a theological center? Discuss the issues in the debate. Include the viewpoints of several prominent OT theologians.
5. Discuss the critical questions of the date and authorship of Isaiah. Evaluate the development of the multiple-authorship view(s) in terms of:
 - (1) the main presuppositions regarding multiple author views
 - (2) the key individuals who developed this approach, and
 - (3) the major arguments against multiple authorship.
6. Discuss the dating of Daniel and the issues involved in the different views concerning the book's composition. Include a discussion of the identifications of the kingdoms in Daniel 2 and 7.
7. Describe the early and late dates for the exodus from Egypt, giving evidence from scripture and archaeology for and against each view.
8. Describe the interaction between Assyria and Israel/Judah during the 8th and 7th centuries BC. Tell in chronological order how the messages of Isaiah, Hosea, Amos and Jonah intersect with the history of the period.
9. Describe the value of the DSS for the discipline of Old Testament textual criticism. Present and evaluate Tov's understanding of their value.
10. Discuss the major sources for corruption by scribes who copied the Old Testament manuscripts and the process textual critics use to determine the "original" text. Include your understanding concerning the goal for Old Testament textual criticism.
11. Describe how the Hebrew represented in the printed MT expresses the genitive case. Include the major changes that occur with any of the form of the words. List and illustrate the major grammatical functions for the Hebrew genitive.
12. Describe the sequencing of Hebrew "tenses" (perfect/imperfect/preterite [also called qatal/yiqtol/weyiqtol or suffixed/prefixed conjugations]) in past tense narrative. Show how other Semitic languages might help to explain this feature. Include a discussion of the verbal forms that begin the narrative sequence, how the waw-consecutive is identified, what breaks the narrative chain and how it is

restored.

Additionally the student will be asked to translate a portion of scripture, parse verbs and answer text critical questions related to the passage.